

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04488 061801Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAA-01 H-01 INR-10
IO-13 PM-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
/058 W

-----117460 061822Z /44S

O 061715Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9087
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4488

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR MILI PORG PORN
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: COMMENTS OF FONMIN BOUTROS

REF: TEL AVIV'S 9999

1. FORMULATION ADVANCED BY GAZIT AND REPORTED PARA 9 REFTEL
SOUNDS VERY CLOSE TO WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SELL LEBANESE,
BUT WHEN I SHOWED IT TO BOUTROS AUGUST 5 HE REMARKED THAT HADDAD
AFFAIR WAS GETTING OUT OF HAND. LEBANESE MUSLIM, AND ARAB WORLD,
OPINION WAS UNITING AROUND CONCEPT THAT HADDAD WAS RENEGADE WHO
MUST BE PUNISHED. HE, BOUTROS, HAD BEEN ATTACKED VIOLENTLY BY
LIBYAN-FINANCED AS-SAFIR THAT MORNING FOR BEING SOFT ON HADDAD
AND FOR SEEKING DIPLOMATIC WAY OUT (TEXT BY REFTEL).
HE FEARED HE HAD USED UP MOST OF HIS CREDIT ON THIS ISSUE AND
REGRETTED DEEPLY THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED FOUR OR FIVE DAYS
EARLIER. HE WAS NOT VERY CONFIDENT THAT A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04488 061801Z

WOULD FLY LOCALLY NOW.

2. HE SAID THAT IDEA GOL MIGHT CONTINUE TO PAY HADDAD AND HIS
MEN AFTER THEY HAD FIRED ON LEBANESE FLAG WAS ABSURD AND IT WAS
DISCOURAGING THAT ANYONE WOULD RAISE IT SERIOUSLY. I EXPLAINED
THAT GAZIT HAD BEEN TRYING TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES AND HAD
RAISED THIS AS ONE IDEA WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED. ISRAELIS WERE

HAVING TROUBLE WITH HADDAD AND LOOKING AROUND FOR WAYS THEY MIGHT SOLVE HIS PERSONAL PROBLEM.

3. BOUTROS SAID HADDAD HAD BECOME SUCH A BURNING ISSUE LOCALLY THAT IT WAS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID A MILITARY COURT OF INQUIRY WHICH WOULD LEAD TO COURT MARTIAL AND A DEATH SENTENCE FOR HIM. HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO RETURN TO LEBANON. HE WOULD NOT RETURN ANYWAY. NEVERTHELESS, BOUTROS SAID HE STILL STOOD BY HIS PROMISE TO MAINTAIN OFFER MADE TO HADDAD BY JOHNNY ABDO. THAT WAS AS FAR AS HE COULD GO.

4. BOUTROS SAID THAT IF ISRAELIS AND HADDAD HAD DELIBERATELY SOUGHT TO PROMOTE THE DIVISION AND DESTRUCTION OF LEBANON, THEY COULD NOT HAVE DONE BETTER. INDEED, HE SUSPECTED THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEIR INTENT, AND HE NO LONGER HAD ANY CONFIDENCE IN OUR ABILITY TO DETER THEM.

5. AFTER A GOOD DEAL OF INTROSPECTIVE GLOOM, BOUTROS SAID HE WOULD WAIT TO SEE WHAT SECRETARY'S VISIT MIGHT PRODUCE. IF WE CAME UP WITH SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF THREE-POINT PROPOSAL WE HAD DISCUSSED EARLIER, AND IF WE HAD FIRM GOI COMMITMENT TO IT, HE WOULD TRY TO SELL IT TO SARKIS AND HOSS. I ASKED WHAT SOLUTION HOSS HAD FOR PROBLEM. BOUTROS SAID HOSS WANTED TO "STAND FIRM", WHATEVER THAT MIGHT MEAN. BOUTROS INDICATED HAT HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO SEND DOWN REINFORCEMENTS AND TO FORCE A PASSAGE. EVEN IF THEY LOST 100 MEN, THEIR HONOR WOULD BE SAVED. AS OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 04488 061801Z

NOW, CHRISTIANS, HIMSELF INCLUDED, WERE CONSIDERED BY ARABS TO BE IN CAHOOTS WITH ISRAEL, AND HADDAD CASE WAS BEING ADDUCED AS PROOF OF THE CONNECTION. THEY HAD TO WIPE OUT THE STAIN SOMEHOW. HE PERSONALLY OPPOSED THE IDEA, BUT IT MIGHT BE FORCED UPON HIM.

6. I REITERATED VIEW THAT ATTEMPT TO FORCE A PASSAGE WOULD BE DISASTROUS, AND SUGGESTED THEY SHOULD PERHAPS EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS KEEPING THE PRESENT BATTALION AT KAWKABA AND SENDING ANOTHER SOUTH VIA QA'QA'IYAH TO TIBNIN. BOUTROS DOUBTED THIS WAS POSSIBLE, BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT ANYWAY.

7. COMMENT: BOUTROS IS IN A VERY PESSIMISTIC MOOD. ASHRAFIYAH, WHERE HE LIVES, WAS HEAVILY BOMBARDED NIGHT BEFORE, AND HE AND MOST OTHER RESPONSIBLE LEBANESE, ARE NEARING END OF THEIR TETHER. PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MS. SMITH.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, COUNTERINSURGENCY, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780322-0428
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780893/aaaaczv.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08721d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 9999
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1823306
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: COMMENTS OF FONMIN BOUTROS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, PORG, PORS, SOPN, UNSC, (BOURTROS, FUAD GEORGES), (HADDAD, SAAD)
To: TEL AVIV JERUSALEM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08721d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014